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# The Talon

Avila College 11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO 64145 November 15, 2001 Vol. X Issue 3

## Kansas City invaded

Jennifer Coates  
Staff Writer

Never before were you afraid of going there. You never once thought it would hurt you. Now you wonder, should you even check your mail?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention there have been four deaths and 22 reported cases of anthrax, all transmitted by letters sent in the mail. These cases have been reported in Florida, New York City, New Jersey and Washington D.C. Traces of anthrax have also been found in Kansas City. Finding anthrax this close to home has many worried.

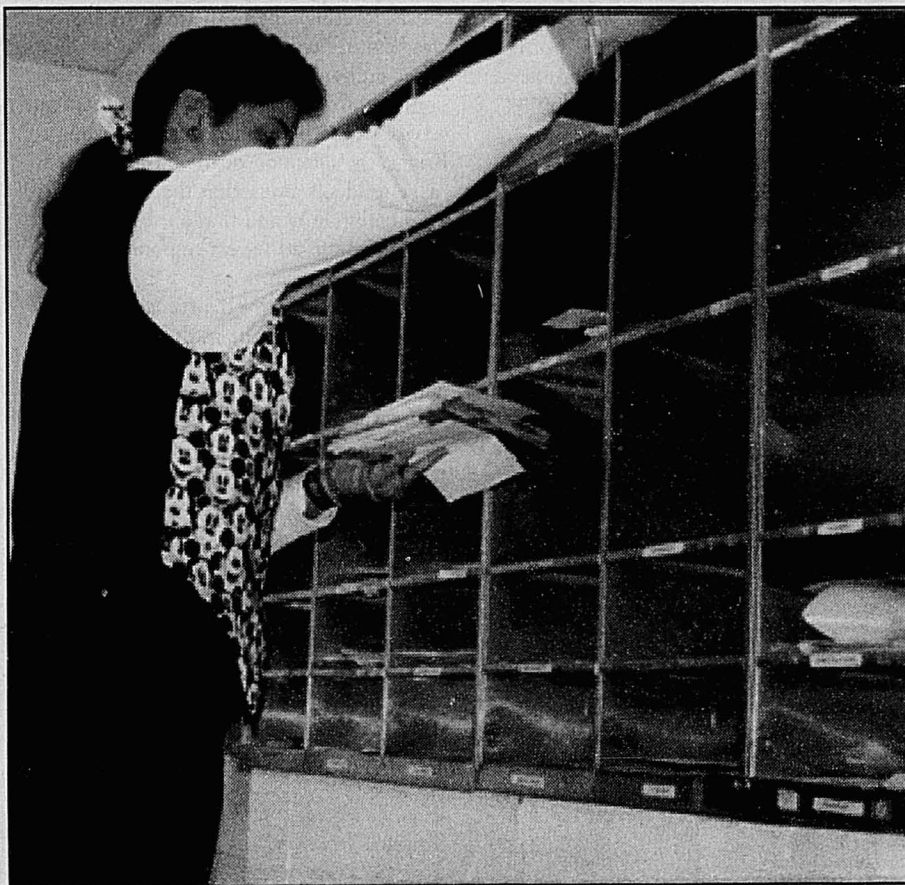
"I wasn't remotely concerned until I heard that it was found in here (in Kansas City)," sophomore Christin Hiskey said.

The Kansas City anthrax was found at the Stamp Fulfillment Service facility in the Hunt Midwest Subtopolis caves. The facility had apparently received mail from the infected Brentwood facility. The anthrax spores were located within some trash from the building. As a precaution, workers at that location began taking antibiotics, but no one has become infected.

The U. S. Postal Service (USPS) has assured the public that every precaution is being taken to protect the mail. According to the USPS, "Since Sept. 11, we have delivered 30 billion pieces of mail. That is about five pieces for each person on earth. In that same time we've confirmed that three pieces were contaminated."

The USPS has recently sent postcards to all customers giving them tips and instructions regarding suspicious mail. These include: do not handle a letter or package that you suspect is contaminated; do not shake it, bump it, or sniff it; and after handling it, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water and notify law enforcement authorities.

With the anthrax cases on the forefront and the news, the precautionary measures to thwart other bio-terrorism acts have been increased. According to the National Institutes of Health, "We are focusing our basic and clinical research efforts to approach and hopefully overcome bio-terrorism threats."



A. Sexton

Avila's mailroom resumes its daily routine after anthrax was found in Kansas City.

## Paying the price: use it and lose it

Shirley Phillips  
Staff Writer

College students are learning about the price for using or selling drugs. A drug conviction can mean students are denied financial aid.

Aid can be denied for one or more years depending on how recent the conviction is and whether the student sought help with his or her drug dependency. Indefinite suspension of aid comes with any additional convictions.

Under the Bush administration, question number 35 on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is mandatory. The question asks whether you have ever been convicted of possessing or selling illegal drugs. The application states in bold, "Do not leave this question blank." If a student does leave it blank, he or she can be denied aid. If a student answers yes to the question, the application states that a worksheet will be sent to the student to determine if the conviction will affect eligibility.

Financial aid officials began strictly enforcing the law beginning with the 2001-02 application cycle, which began in January of this year.

The San Francisco Chronicle quoted U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., who is leading the fight against the law as saying, "If George Bush or Al Gore had been caught using drugs, as I believe they did, it wouldn't have affected their ability to go to college. It hurts minorities disproportionately. They are more likely to get arrested for drug use, and they are low-income, so they are more likely to need student aid. So they get a double whammy."

"You can be arrested for possession or selling illegal drugs and it will not affect



File Photo

Students convicted of possession or selling drugs can be denied financial aid.

your financial aid. If you are convicted of possessing or selling illegal drugs, it will affect your financial aid," Angie Comstock, director of financial aid at Avila, said.

"This question causes confusion for students and financial aid administrators. The U.S. Department of Education issued a brochure as a supplement to the FAFSA application to explain how drug convictions

affect student aid," Comstock said.

"It is basically a three strikes and you are out rule when you are convicted for possession; one year ineligibility for the first offense, two years for the second offense, and indefinitely for the third offense," Comstock said.

"If, for example, you are convicted of your first drug offense as an 18-year-old and

you come back to school in your 20s, 30s, or 40s, you have to answer the question yes, but your eligibility isn't affected because your period of one year of ineligibility has passed," Comstock said.

Applying for and receiving financial aid for a school year runs from July through June of the following year. "Most likely if a student has been convicted of possession or sale of an illegal drug, they will not be coming to school and we will get notification of that. Fortunately, we have not had a problem with this question at Avila," Comstock said.

The law says that those who go through a rehabilitation program can regain their eligibility sooner than the one year or two year suspensions. However, critics say no money has been appropriated for the rehab programs.

"The rehab program lies on the person who is convicted of searching out the programs, making sure it meets the guidelines, that it is an approved program. It is difficult for the student. If they are needing financial aid for school, they may not have the money for the rehab program," Comstock said.

Comstock said one of the best ways students can get specific questions answered about their particular situation is to call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID.



# Male residents serve time

Andrea Sexton  
Chief Photographer

The sixth floor of Ridgway was the latest victim in the recent wave of vandalism. A toilet had to be removed from the bathroom after being broken by excessive force.

"The acts of vandalism started in early September, right after school started," Director of Residence Life Wendy Briggs said. "This is intended destruction - out and out destruction and is not a prank. Both dorms have had incidents but the problem areas are the male bathrooms in Ridgway and the second floor bathroom in Carondelet."

With vandalism growing more common and no leads as to who has committed the acts of vandalism, the residence hall staff came up with a solution - community service. All male residents must do 10 hours of community service or face disciplinary action by the residence hall director.

"This is my seventh year working in a residence hall and this is the worst I have seen it. I was at UMKC for two years and the Kansas City Arts Institute and there

were pranks but nothing this deliberate," Briggs said. "The other areas that have been affected are the elevators. It is like someone tried to jump up and down or tried to pull the doors open. They have been shut down a few times this year to be repaired," she said.

A meeting among the male residents was held in hopes of finding leads to identify the guilty party, if the guilty party was not caught or turned in, then community service would be handed out. According to Briggs, the intention of the meeting was to make residents aware that the residence halls are a community and that all resident directors and assistants have a responsibility to stop the vandalism.

"The majority of the students are not [the perpetrators]. The individuals could not be identified, so the whole male residential population has to do community service," Briggs said.

"Someone during the meeting stood up and said that they knew who did it but they

were not going to tell," freshman Tom Gregar said.

With no leads, Briggs and Ridgway's Residence Hall Director, Terrell Tigner, gave the residents a last written warning. No response came from the warning so the community service sentence was handed out; two hours with the residence director and eight hours with the Custodial and Grounds Department.

"The idea behind the community service is that if you mess up your community, you should clean it up," Briggs said.

"We came up with the idea by looking at other schools to see what was working for them to cut down on acts of vandalism," Tigner said.

The community service was the first action taken by the residence hall staff. There are three levels of disciplinary action: the first level is a warning, the second is probation, and the third is expulsion from the residence halls.

"The dorms have calmed down since

the punishment has been handed out.

People keep an eye out to see what is going on but I don't feel that I am being watched all the time. People are being more careful," freshman Phillip Haislip said.

The community service will be served throughout the semester. Those who do not complete the required hours will have other disciplinary actions taken against them.

"The bathroom incident was pretty bad but the rest of the incidents have been blown out of proportion. I am not going to do it. That is what a lot of people are saying. I was not here when it happened," freshman Eric Torres said. "The football team was in practice when the toilet was broken. Why should they be punished?"

"It is just too bad that a few bad apples have spoiled the rest of us. It is horrible to make innocent students pick up trash just because of a few childish students," Haislip said.

# Campus Coke

Eric Findlay  
News Editor

Many students were unaware of the abundance of Coke that can be found on campus. Recently, Avila signed a contract with Coca-Cola making it the official soft drink of Avila College.

That is correct, no more Pepsi. Only Coke machines can be found scattered around campus begging for your money.

According to Vice President and Dean for Student Affairs Joe Deighton, the transition took almost a year. "We started the process almost a year and a half ago, and recently we signed a contract with Coke on Oct. 1, 2001, that will last five years," Deighton said.

Many students and faculty members wonder why they did not get a chance to vote on the decision. "I did not even know they were considering switching brands. I think they should have given us more opportunities to voice our opinions," senior Yeni Monterozza said.

According to Deighton, the subject was discussed in several Student Senate meetings. He also indicated that surveys which probed for the students' preferences were issued last semester.

"Coke offered us a better deal and we received a monetary reward. This was done

to bring in more resources that would benefit the entire campus," Deighton said.

Reactions are now noticeable as students, faculty, and staff approach the soft drink machines and are confronted with a surprise. "I was counting on my afternoon bottle of Mountain Dew and then I found out about the whole Coke thing. I was a little ticked off. There was not even the slightest warning," freshman Larry Phillips said.

Other students have felt little to no effect in this transition. "It really does not bother me because I will drink whatever is in the machines," junior Brett Gorenflo said.

Everyone is still allowed to bring Pepsi products from home or the gas station onto campus. However, if you are looking to purchase a Pepsi product at Avila the only brand filling the machines is Coca-Cola.

"We are happy with our past agreement with Coca-Cola and are glad to extend our relationship with them because it gives us an opportunity to extend resources for our institution. I am also a Pepsi lover so I know the sacrifices that must be made," Deighton said.



A. Sexton

Coke products, which include Powerade, Dasani, and Minute Maid, dominate the tunnel halls.

# Freshmen help those in need

Shannon Degitz  
Staff Writer

Negative actions surround us every day. Despite all of the negativity, there are still positive actions taking place. Some of these acts are taking place right here at Avila.

The first year seminar classes, required for all freshmen, are giving back to the community and proving that good people do exist. One of the requirements for the class is 15 hours of community service. Each section of the seminar class has taken on a different type of service project.

"Our section, the Kappas, is going down to St. Vincent's," freshman Nicole Sowders said. "It is a place for underprivileged children to go and play and get tutored if they need it. We go and play with them and give them a lot of attention," she said.

The Sigmas are working to help the

homeless. "We put bags together with hygiene items, we visited with them and basically were just there to listen to them and treat them like real human beings," freshman Will Smith said. "I enjoy doing the community service because I have realized that these people are not homeless because they were lazy. They were hard working people who had hard luck. I have a new respect for the homeless in general," he said.

Another group, the Betas, are going to the Don Bosco center. Mentor Melissa Stovall said, "Some of the students are going to the center to visit with the elderly, others are painting a house for a lady who can not afford it. Others are making Christmas cards, patriotic pins, and even painting portraits of the elderly people."

Mentors are responsible for leading the students in the seminar classes and helping them with projects. "We are there because we have already had experience being first year students. So we know the amount of stress that comes with that territory. We are there to help them with whatever questions they have and to help guide them in the right direction during their first year," Stovall said.

"Our group, the Rhos, is going to Armourdale Rock (Ministries). We are helping children who are growing up in a rough part of town. We are also fixing up a Christmas shop that will have affordable items in it that children can buy their parents. We are really trying to make a difference in people's lives," freshman Amanda Boyer said.

Doing community service is a good way

to get Avila students involved in the community. "I think it is a very good thing that the freshmen are doing community service because it gets them more involved in the community and shows the community that college students are good people and not arrogant," Stovall said.

The community service projects place Avila in a good light and are positive actions that give people hope. "Doing the community service also shows that Avila lives up to its values," mentor Kara Anderson said. The Avila values are about achieving excellence in learning and in teaching. "Interaction with and service to others" is a key value at Avila and community service is just the type of work to back that value up.



# Goppert brings Shakespeare to life

Jeremy Cox  
Staff Writer

After a successful run of Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*, Goppert Theater began to prepare for its second show of the year. What laid ahead for the actors was putting together what is said to be one of Shakespeare's most difficult plays, *King Henry IV part I*. Practice began the day after the last performance of *The Odd Couple*. The cast and director had their work cut out for them.

The actors prepared by "reading through the play over and over again, and analyzing the script to have an idea of what is actually being said. [We also did a lot of] researching a lot so that we know who the character is, what they want, and generally what importance they have to the story," senior Chris Gleeson said.

The play is about "the shaping of a ruler through the extremes of life, lust, power, and political intrigue," Director Robert Foulk said. "The show really relates to the times of what's currently going on,

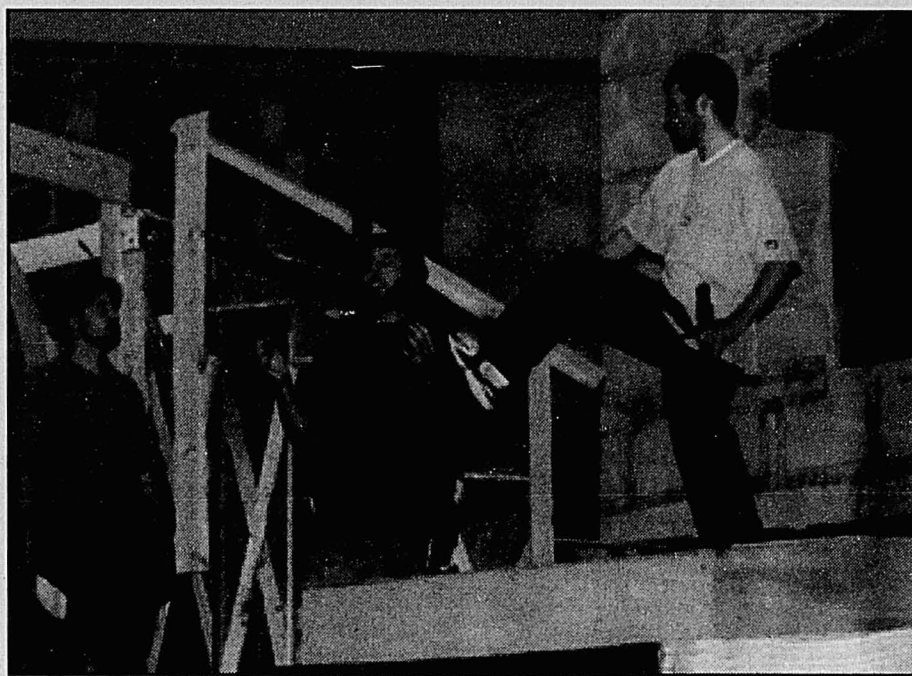
the play shows how people deal with power, war, and escapism."

"It has a good message to get across. It shows the history of power. About who wanted it, who had it, who didn't, and how that ultimately shaped history. It's a play that's funny. It has its serious points, but it's funny, and it has sword fighting," Gleeson said.

With a playwright that favors a more male heavy show, where do women fit in to this story?

"The women bring another side to the show. They bring a softer side to contrast the men, and the war that is taking place. They show the other side of war, the ones that want to battle and those who fear the war," freshman Crystal Hartford said.

The show runs from Nov. 15 to Nov. 18. Showtime is 8 p.m. Nov. 15-17, and 2 p.m. on Nov. 18.



A. Sexton

Avila actors bring the 17th century classic to life.

## 13 pieces of trash

Jeremy Lillig  
Staff Writer

They are ghosts, and unfortunately there are 13 of them. It is unfortunate, because this film is the most uninteresting glob of flaming dog feces tossed on Warner Brother's doorstep in a long time.

Yes, the story is as stupid and hollow as it looks in the previews - an incredibly short panoramic shot of a troubled family based on the fact they are poor and desperate.

After the death of an unknown ghost-hunting uncle, the family goes to tour their new all-glass house with the uncle's lawyer. Ding! Ding! You guessed it. They get trapped in the house.

Nothing else happens other than some stupid special effects, some mediocre scare tactics, racial stereotypes, and of course, some unbelievable family tenderness.

To constructively critique the actors in this film would be a joke. The acting is pure garbage. The crown for the most untalented boring actress to ever grace the glimpse of a camera would have to be placed on the plastic looking head of Ms. Shannon Elizabeth. Every single line that

she puked on screen was so unbelievable that a squirrel could have done a better job.

The script did not help the lack of talent on screen. The racial stereotypic lines uttered by the black babysitter were nauseating. The story is so overdone that it seems like a rerun on *Nick at Night*.

This film is the worst I have seen this year. Watching the faucet drip might have brought more enjoyment and excitement than this film. Supporting this waste of time could promote the evolution of horror films into mind-numbing torture. Those who watch infomercials all day long have had more entertainment than those who saw and regurgitated the 13 ghosts.

**Thir13en Ghosts**  
★ (out of ★★★★★)  
Rated: R  
Running Time: 90 minutes  
Starring: Matthew Lillard, Shannon Elizabeth, and Tony Shalhoub

## Hawk grounded

Karen Guber  
Editor-In-Chief

You may have noticed on your last trip to Lawrence, Kan., the line at the once popular nightclub The Granada is non-existent. Like many others, you may be wondering where is everyone?

Cruise down a little further to 13th and Ohio, and check out The Hawk. Friday night is in full effect and this bar/club is packed. Be prepared to wait up to half an hour in the line that stretches down Ohio Street.

Once inside, it is wall to wall with sweaty, drunk undergrads fighting for enough room to turn around. The Hawk is 3/4 bar, 1/4 dance floor, and does not have nearly enough space to accommodate all the people getting their freak on. For those who prefer not to have their personal bubble violated, stick with The Granada.

To break it down, there are too many people in such a small, smelly place. The bar area covers a majority of the space, and all the drunks take up the rest. If you're

headed out to go dancing, then head somewhere else.

The one saving grace is the music. This hole in the wall found the best DJ in Lawrence. No techno or disco in the mix. A little Joan Jett with some AC/DC, toss in some Snoop and Dre with a little backup from Missy Elliott, and it is a party. However, you will spend more of the night fighting the crowds and worrying about whether someone is going to vomit on your shoes than enjoying the music.

Cover for the under 21 crowd is \$5. Twenty-one and up is free.

The Hawk gets:



E. Barnes

The Plaza gets into the holiday spirit and lights up Kansas City.

## Holiday fun in KC

Liz Horsley  
A&E Editor

The holiday season is in full gear. As the temperature plummets outside, do not just stay in and keep warm. Get out and enjoy all that the city has to offer. There is something for everyone, from fine arts to sports. There is no excuse for cabin fever when so much is happening.

### SPORTS

The Chiefs have several home games left in the season.

Seattle Seahawks on Nov. 25  
Philadelphia Eagles on Nov. 29  
Denver Broncos on Dec. 16  
San Diego Chargers on Dec. 23

For indoor soccer, check out the Kansas City Comets at Kemper Arena. For ticket information, go online at [www.kccomets.com](http://www.kccomets.com).

### HOLIDAY EVENTS

To get into the holiday spirit, drive down to the Country Club Plaza and enjoy the miles of Christmas lights on display.

There are plenty of shops and restaurants to enjoy among the lighted buildings. The lighting ceremony begins at 7 p.m. on Nov. 22.

Just a little north of the Plaza is the Mayor's Christmas tree. The lighting

ceremony for this gigantic tree is on Nov. 23 in Crown Center Square. Crown Center also has an outdoor ice skating rink.

### FINE ARTS

The Kansas City Ballet brings the classic, *The Nutcracker* to Midland Theatre. The show will be during December. Tickets need to be purchased in advance at (816) 931-2232.

The Kansas City Symphony plays *The Magic of Christmas* at the Music Hall in downtown Kansas City. They will be there Dec. 13-16. Buy tickets online at [www.kcsymphony.org](http://www.kcsymphony.org).

A Christmas Carol is presented at the Missouri Repertory Theatre, starting Nov. 24. Purchase tickets for this play at [www.missouri-repertory-theatre.org](http://www.missouri-repertory-theatre.org).

With all of the events going on this holiday season, there is little reason to feel bored. There is always something happening that offers a good time.

Check out the website [www.goinkansascity.com](http://www.goinkansascity.com) for a complete listing of all the events in the Kansas City area.



## Fall sports wrap-up

Alana Groom  
Staff Writer

Fall sports are wrapping up, and many athletes are looking back on how the season went. Unfortunately for many of the teams, their seasons were not as good as they had planned.

Winning only four of their 17 games this season, women's soccer finished last in conference for the 2001 season. Leading scorer for the Lady Eagles was Brandi Cason, knocking in six goals, followed by Nicole Sowders with four.

"We played with no heart this season. We went out just to play and we really did not want it," midfielder Erin Phillips said.

To be more successful next year, the team feels they will have to bring in some good recruits to replace the eight seniors they are losing along with a new head coach to replace Jeff Randolph, who finished out his last season this year with the Lady Eagles.

Avila's volleyball team improved their record from previous seasons and did not end up in last place in conference standings this year. By defeating Missouri Valley early in the season the team took 10th place for the first time in more than three years.

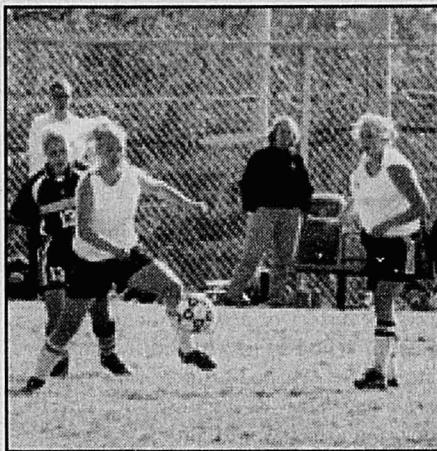
"The season was much better than my first two years here. We probably could have been even more successful if we were able to

have more consistent practicing. Due to the gym situation, sometimes we lacked the practice time we needed to prepare for a game," outside hitter Stephanie Bass said.

This season was better for the Eagles, with a 1-9 record in conference play and six wins overall. Bass led in kills and setter Alana Groom led in assists. To be even more successful in years to come the women feel that they will need to bring in some good players that really want to win.

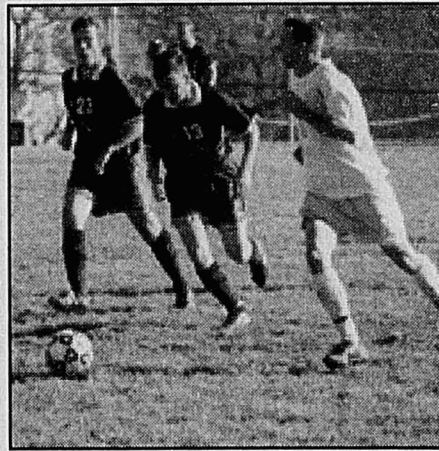
The football team had similar results this season. They finished the season with a win over Mid-America Nazarene, and ended with a 2-8 record. Their other win came against Central Methodist College in the middle of the season.

Defensively the team is solid with two men that are neck and neck for the most tackles, defensive back Bobby Bass and line-backer David Garner. Offensively, quarterback Malik Kincheloe, passed for four touchdowns and rushed for one. Kevin Furderer and Amhad Ashkar both lead the team with three rushing touchdowns apiece for the season.



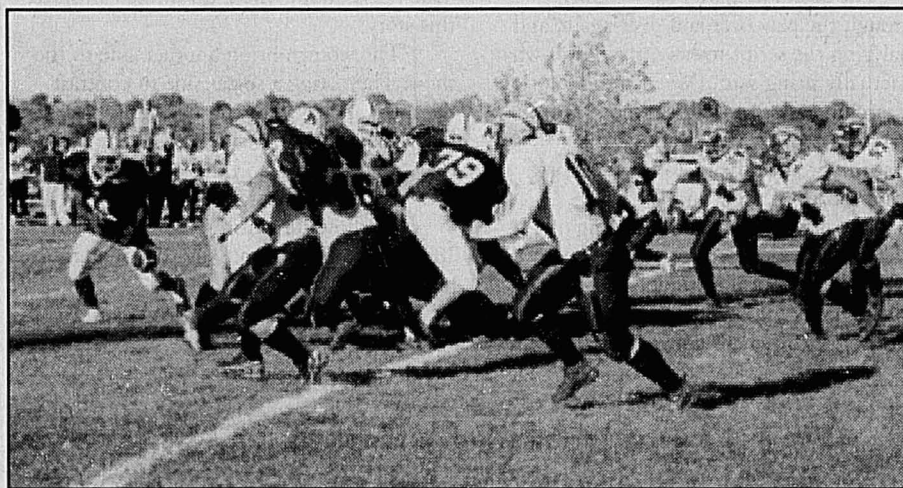
C. Schuler

Laura Wilkerson receives the ball.



E. Barnes

Avery Abernathy goes past two defenders.



C. Schuler

Malik Kincheloe receives the snap.

## Men's basketball takes the court

David Garner  
Staff Writer

The men's basketball team is looking for a fresh start. The strenuous off-season program has the Eagles focused and determined on having a winning season.

With 10 returning players from the 2000-01 team, 15 new faces will fill the remaining roster slots "We have a brand new look and a brand new attitude," guard Anthony Harrison said. "We worked hard in the off-season and it will pay off when the season starts."

"The guys respect each other more after going through an off-season together," center Pierre Brown said. "Anyone who went to the games last year will see a totally different team this year. It will be exciting."

Another familiar face will be that of Nick Totta, who returns to the bench as head coach. Totta continues to focus on the basics, beginning with teamwork.

"Coach Totta sticks to the fundamentals. There's no hotshotting around," point guard Anthony Sansone said. "There's discipline."

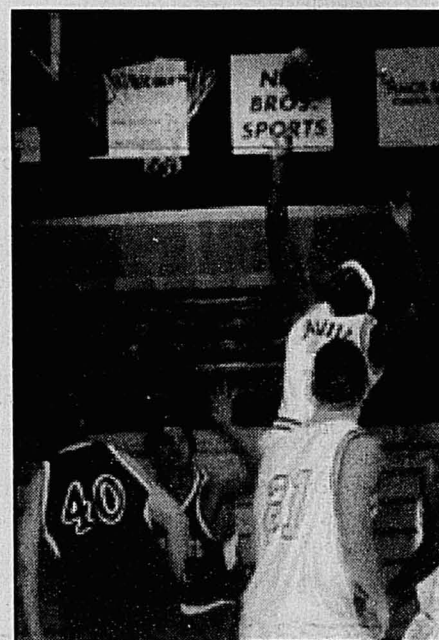
Harrison said the Eagles would no longer play showboat basketball. He said the team has implemented a team-oriented style of ball. "At times last year we looked like we were playing street ball," Harrison said. "We have become more unified and we depend on each other."

After ranking 10th in their first season as members of the Heart of America

Athletic Conference, the Eagles are gearing up to turn things around. "It's going to be tough," guard Marty Mothersbaugh said. "We've got to play hard and prove ourselves. We're playing in one of the hardest conferences in Missouri."

"We're aiming for a better record this season," Mothersbaugh said, "and I think we'll get it. We're learning to play better basketball as a team, and that will help us a lot."

The first game in the newly renovated Mabey Fieldhouse will be on Dec. 1 against Missouri Valley College.



A. Sexton

Men's basketball season opener.



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# Looking to improve with new talent

Ryan Jackson  
Sports Editor

At the beginning of every season, each team has expectations and goals they set for themselves. The women's basketball team is looking to improve on the 9-22 record from last year. Besides winning more games, the team wants to be more competitive in conference matches, continue to work hard in practice, and execute the fundamentals.

Consistency on offense and aggressiveness on defense will be the keys to a successful season. "Coach McMurray did a really wonderful job of recruiting the post position this year. They are very athletic and talented," Assistant Coach BryAnn Cook said. "We have lots of transfer students this year that are great athletes who work real well with the returning players from last year."

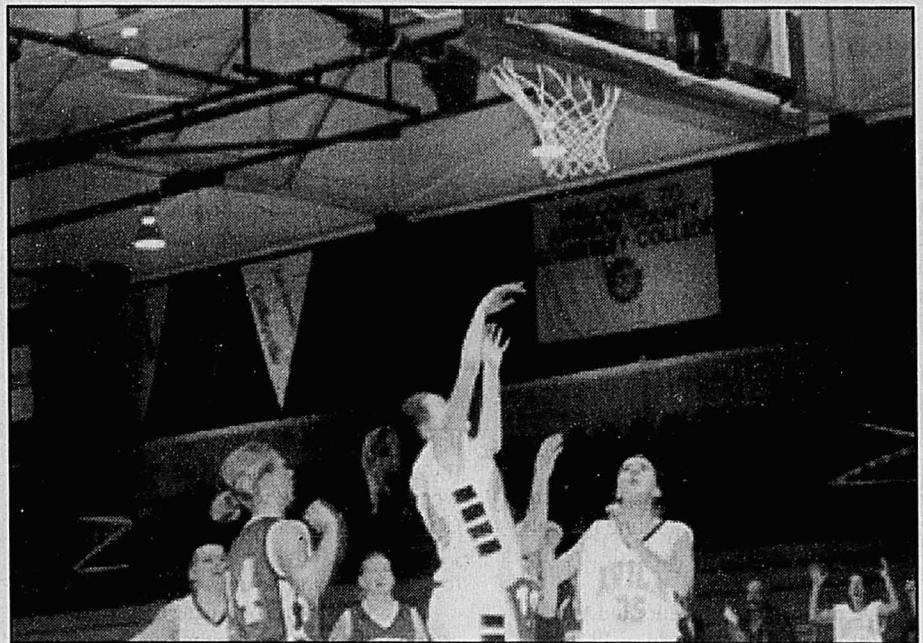
Post Carrie Hoffman feels that the team is going to be solid all around. "The team is going to be strong in every position.

We have a lot of depth on our team as a whole. Our forwards can shoot lights out, our guards can pass, and our post can run the floor," Hoffman said.

"They are very athletic with a deep bench. They will get up and down the court very fast and will be exciting to watch this year," Cook said.

With any sports team, the new athletes and freshman need somebody to look up to and to show them the ropes of college athletics. Delisa Hubbard, a freshman forward, said, "Adrianne Cook and Mary Blevins always have supportive comments to say and they push the team to succeed."

Hoffman said, "We have many leaders on the team that help out in their own way, from helping cheer people on to being the mean girls on the floor."



A. Sexton

Women's basketball takes to the court for the 2001-02 season.

## Soccer season a success

Kara Anderson  
Staff Writer

Two minutes left in the game. With seconds ticking away, the Avila soccer player carefully dribbles down the field. He cuts left, then right, and finally after carefully placing himself...he kicks the ball perfectly into the net for the game-winning goal.

The majority of the men's soccer games at Avila ended with a win.

The players on the team have come together to provide Avila with a well-formed team. "The team is much more focused than in the past. We are working together," captain Nick Baum said.

With a 12-4-2 record, the team has proved they are working hard, together. "My favorite part of being on this team is the camaraderie. We have made a lot of friends, are having fun, and winning," forward Josh Englebrake said.

Englebrake lead the Eagle offense with 12 goals, followed by Avery Abernathy (8) and Aaron Weaver (7). Weaver-led the team

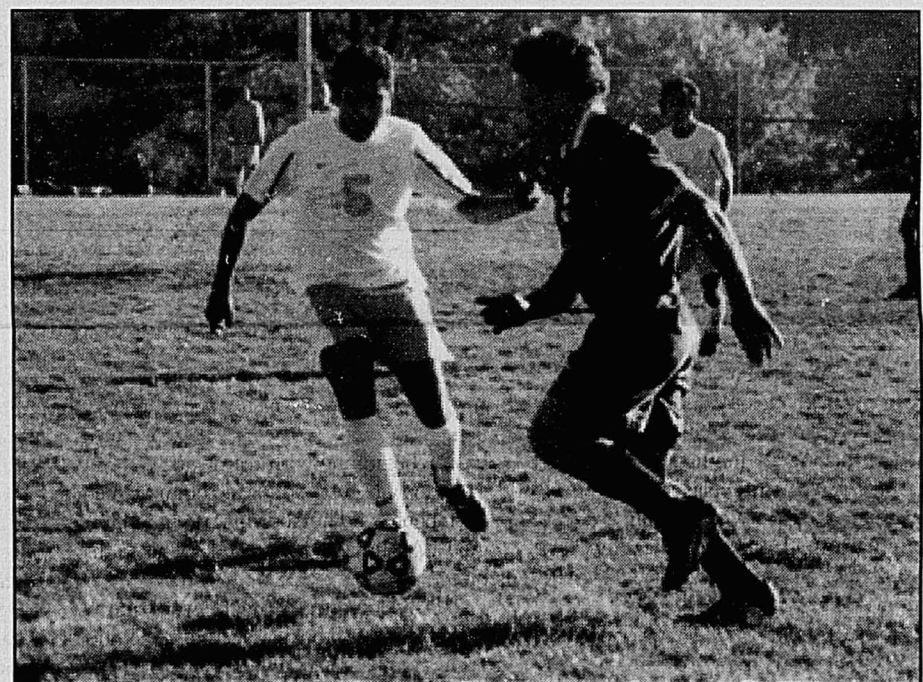
in assists with 11. Englebrake (8) and Mike Johnson (7) rounding out the top three. Baum was second in conference standings for goalies. He had 81 saves and allowed only 18 goals, giving him a 1.05 goals against average per game.

The Eagles post season was cut short with a 4-0 loss to Lindenwood in the first round of Heart of America Athletic Conference play.

"This season the team did really well. We worked hard and had a good time. We ended with a good record and played strong throughout the season," captain Tyler Barr said.

Finishing in fourth place in the conference, the team has marked this season as a successful one.

"This year was great," Baum said. "By working together and playing our best, we accomplished our goal: to have a great season and have fun."



E. Barnes

Villegas attempts to steal the ball.

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

# Athlete overcomes adversity

Sara Maley  
Features Editor

Angel Villegas has overcome many obstacles in his life in order to become the person he is today. One of these obstacles was playing college soccer after a three-year break.

Villegas, a senior graphic design major, graduated from Raytown South High School in 1996. From there, he attended two years at Penn Valley Community College before transferring to Avila.

Once a high school varsity soccer player, Villegas decided to attempt the sport at the collegiate level in 1999, but found difficulties upon his return.

"Not a lot of people thought I'd be able to play in college. I didn't have a lot of encouragement from my high school coach, and I didn't play organized soccer for several years before coming to Avila," Villegas said. "I had to work extra hard to prove to myself that I could do it."

Though getting back into soccer was challenging, Villegas found support in his teammates.

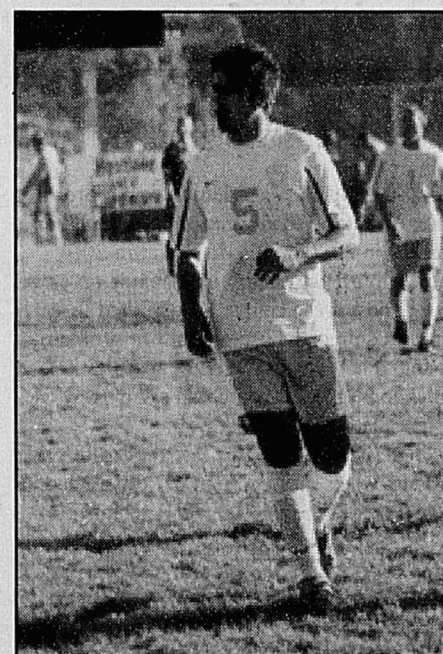
"I didn't know hardly anyone at Avila when I first came except for the guys on the soccer team. They helped me out a lot," Villegas said.

Villegas also found encouragement in his family and fiancée, Jenny.

"My family is very important to me. They have supported my decisions the entire way," Villegas said. "Jenny is my high school sweetheart. We met when we were 16 years old and have been together for seven years. We are getting married this July."

Currently, Villegas works part-time at O'Neill Honda and is taking 17 hours of classes. After graduation in May, Villegas plans to stay involved in sports, possibly by coaching children.

"I don't want to go through the motions. I want to do something that will benefit people, whether through my artistic abilities or through sports," Villegas said. "I feel like I have something extra to offer the world and I want to take advantage of it."



E. Barnes

Villegas looks downfield for the play.

### Basketball Home Games (remaining this semester)

#### Men's

11/25	William Penn	2:00 p.m.
12/1	Missouri Valley	7:30 p.m.
12/6	Evangel	7:30 p.m.
12/17	Haskell Univ.	7:30 p.m.

#### Women's

11/15	Missouri Baptist	2:00 p.m.
11/19	Kansas Wesleyan	6:00 p.m.
11/24	Harris Stowe	2:00 p.m.
12/1	Missouri Valley	5:30 p.m.
12/6	Evangel	5:30 p.m.



# Make your break work for you

Nicole Kelly  
Staff Writer

You are lounging around your parents' house on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, thinking about how nice it was to be able to take a break from school for the last four days. Suddenly, you are filled with anxiety as thoughts of homework hit you like the stack of books you have not touched since Tuesday.

Many upperclassmen have gone through this very scenario, and many more sophomores and freshmen will soon.

"Many people I know are feeling very rushed, like they have no time to study. Between travel plans, catching up, registering for next semester and adding in finals—I agree with them. I am stressed!" freshman Myra Ambrozewski said.

Do not despair. Students and faculty have some tips that may help quell that "Aggh...it's almost finals" heartburn. Since the break is short, it may help to know how you can maximize your efforts in the least amount of time.

"I notice a lot of students have fallen behind on their readings at this point. I

think the break is an excellent time to take some time to get caught up and study simultaneously by just reading over the materials," Stephen Caliendo, assistant professor of political science, said. "Try doing it in small doses. I suggest reading a certain amount before you go to sleep at night, and then a little more when you wake up in the morning. This way you can still have time to enjoy the day in between."

"Set aside one hour a day for yourself. This down time will allow your mind to be refreshed. Then you can look at your school work and be ready to work," senior Sara Cox said.

Besides studying, there are other ways to keep stress and anxiety to a minimum.

"Look over the old materials, see where your problems lie, and come back prepared to ask questions that will help you out in the weeks ahead," Don Faurot, math professor, said.

Sue Franklin, coordinator of college skills, agreed, "Be realistic. If you need a break, need to see mom and dad—don't

even take your books home. It will just make you feel guilty." Franklin also added that there is another side to this scenario. "You must also think realistically, if you choose to take the break off, what kind of position will you be putting yourself in when you come back to school?"

There are also other concerns that should be focused on during break in order to keep stress levels minimized once you get back. Franklin pointed out that class schedule times change for finals week.

"I'm always amazed how many people simply don't realize this until the last minute," Franklin said. "Break is a good time to take care of scheduling issues like daycare, work, transportation and other appointments that may conflict with your scheduled finals. Make sure to find this information out before break. You may not even have a final to stress out over."

## Make the most of your break

1. Enjoy the time off.
2. Spend quality time with your family.
3. Make a list of your priorities.
4. Schedule time to study.
5. Study with a purpose.
6. Study in small doses.
7. Review old material.
8. Begin preparation for finals.
9. Get plenty of rest.
10. Do not get too stressed out.

# New faculty offers a new perspective

Nicole Kelly  
Staff Writer

"I grew up on a Greek Island," Cecile Kandl, the newest addition to Avila's English department, said. "It gives me a world view and I have been heavily influenced by that."

Kandl was born in New Jersey, but spent the bulk of her childhood attending school with local village children on Abgina, an island in Greece. Kandl's mother raised her and her two siblings there while her father worked back in the United States. "We lived in Germany for a while as well, but moved back home to New Jersey when we reached our pre-teen years," Kandl said.

Kandl received her master's degree from the University of Notre Dame and her doctorate from LeHigh in Pennsylvania. This is her seventh year teaching, but her first "real" job. "This is a great first job. It is my first professorship and it is a specialist position because I was also hired to do recruiting for the English department," Kandl said. "I fell in love with the faculty here, and I really feel very fortunate to be here."

Kandl's background gives her diversity. "I am tri-lingual," Kandl said. She speaks Modern Greek, German, and English. Kandl's minor is in feminist theory. "It helps me to be more well-rounded," Kandl said. She also enjoys creative writing

and has had some of her own short stories published. "But my passion is 19th century British literature," Kandl said. "I find the time period so interesting because it was such a period of change in science, technology and life in general."

Kandl teaches three classes. "I love to teach, especially in my field. One of the biggest reasons for coming to Avila was that I would be able to do just that," Kandl said.

When it comes to classes, she prefers a hands-on approach. "She wants to take time to meet with you," sophomore Amy Chung said.

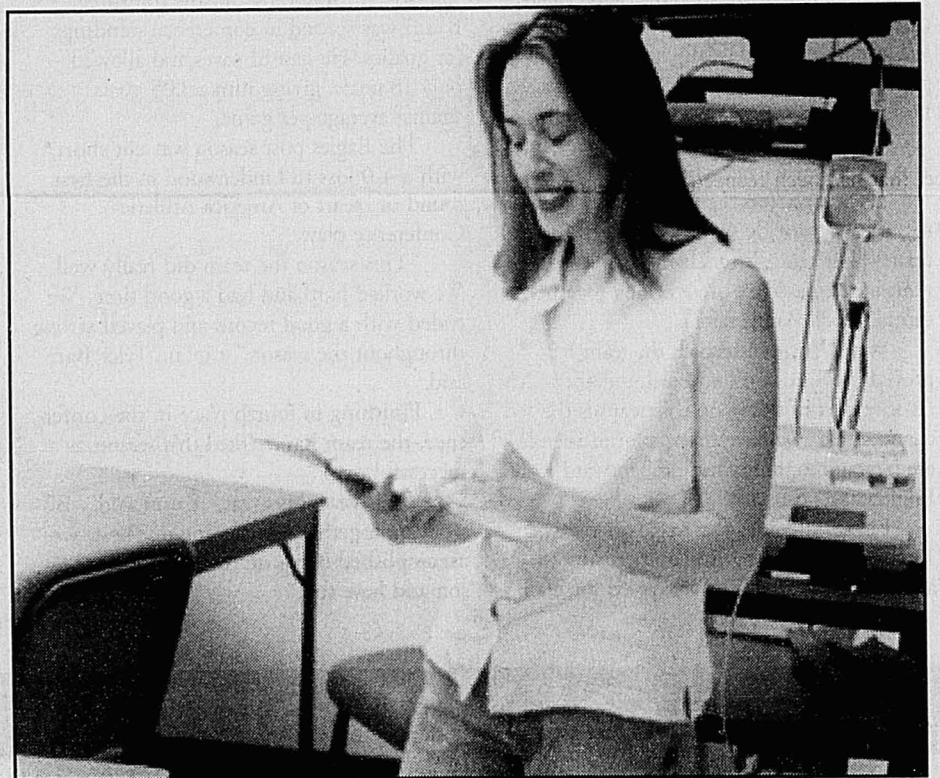
"I have lots of conferences with my students to help them, but also because I like them and I like to talk to them," Kandl said. "I give as much as I expect."

According to her students, those expectations are very high.

"Her class is difficult. She asks for higher standards than most professors," senior Jessica Agard said.

"I've been really impressed with her level of expertise. It can be intimidating but it is also inspiring. She is very passionate," senior Tina Kirk said.

Kandl said, "In the end it is very rewarding. I can't imagine doing anything else."



E. Barnes

Kandl prepares for her women and literature class.



E. Barnes

Fick lectures her algebra class.

Candice Cole  
Staff Writer

When Kathryn Fick is not at Avila teaching algebra, calculus, and advanced math classes, she can be found in her father's garage surrounded by heavy-duty carpentry tools.

"I like to build things for the house that look exactly the way I want them to," Fick said. This is one reason that she says she enjoys carpentry. Fick recently finished a red oak china cabinet, and says that she cannot wait to get started on her next project.

Fick is one of Avila's four new faculty additions. She replaces Judy Munshower in the math department.

According to Fick, Avila's small campus was exactly what she was looking for. "I think small universities can offer more attention to the students," Fick said.

Fick received her bachelor's degree in

1997 from Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. She then went on to pursue her master's in 2000, and a doctorate in 2001 from Auburn University in Alabama.

Almost every course Fick studied in school required the use of math or problem-solving. That is why she chose math as her profession. "I guess you could say it grew on me," Fick said.

Fick believes that she has a lot to offer students when they come to her class. Math department office manager Jo Ann Immele agrees. "Dr. Fick is adapting very well. I think she is great. She's funny, personable, and she knows what she's doing," Immele said.

In the future, Fick looks forward to introducing new styles of teaching and technology to the classroom.



# Thanksgivings gone wrong

Betsy Rechten  
Staff Writer

Bring on the turkey and the cranberry sauce. It is time for another Thanksgiving. A time for family get-togethers and being thankful. A person can spend hours and hours making the perfect Thanksgiving dinner for his or her family, but sometimes the holiday does not go exactly as planned.

Freshman Angie Penning knows to expect the unexpected on this holiday. She was anticipating just another Thanksgiving when something a little unusual happened. "We were on the way to my aunt and uncle's house when a turkey flew across our wind-

shield," Penning said. "I didn't even know turkeys could fly."

Sophomore Sarah Robinson also experienced a surprising Thanksgiving.

"I showed up at my grandparents house with pumpkin bread on Thanksgiving, but they had left to go to a condo to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. They didn't tell anyone," Robinson said.

The dinner is the most important part of the Thanksgiving holiday for most families. Typical dinners consist of turkey, stuffing, and pumpkin pie. Sometimes the din-

ners are not exactly the traditional meal.

"We have a regular homemade stuffing, and then we have a stuffing with gizzards," sophomore Jennifer Klein said. "One year we had burritos."

"One year we had raccoon and rabbit," Stephen Huber, director of campus ministry, said. "My grandpa decided to go hunting, so we had those in addition to the regular meal."

Freshman Josh Castrillo had a bad turkey experience.

"My mom made a turkey one year, that

was halfway still frozen. We started eating the cooked side, and thought it was really good, but then we got to the other side, and you could still see the ice in the turkey," Castrillo said.

Some events are more beyond our control than others. Good or bad, there will always be an interesting story to share at the next Thanksgiving.

# Groundkeeper beautifies the campus

Shirley Phillips  
Staff Writer

It is Monday at 8 a.m. Andy Sheer, superintendent of grounds, cranks "Bob #6," a giant blue van, to life. He heads to Mabee Fieldhouse to turn on the sprinklers to water sod that was put in after the construction of the new addition. He then goes to Dallavis, to pick up the trash he saw as he came to work.

"Avila had me install 25 new trash receptacles throughout the campus about a month ago. I wish I could get everyone to use them," Sheer said, bending over to pick up trash.

"I know this toilet paper isn't ours." He sees that it came from a house across Oak Street that had been teepeed over the weekend. He finds cans, lids, soft drink boxes, parking tickets, and part of a car dashboard.

"Before the football players came the soccer team got the blame for the trash. It is not one group in particular. It could be coming from commuter students, faculty, or even neighbor kids playing in the parking lots. I know, I spend a lot of time picking up trash. I would rather spend time working on other projects that would make the campus look nicer," Sheer said.

Sheer takes Bob #6 to the back of Blasco Hall, stopping along the way to pick up trash in the parking lot by Goppert

Theater. At Blasco he uses a blower to remove acorns from the sidewalks. As he works, more blow out of the tree on to the sidewalk.

He heads to Marian Center for a break in the cafeteria, and meets up with Alice Limbach and Maxine Harris from housekeeping services, and Don Blinzler and Ken Stock, both assistant maintenance engineers.

"Did you guys hear that I will have approximately 100 male students to help with campus clean up this week? Apparently no one decided to tell what happened over in the dorms. Wendy [Briggs] has them set up to serve their 10 hours before the end of the semester. They will spend two of their hours helping her and then the

remaining eight between grounds and housekeeping," Sheer said.

The break is over. It is now 10 a.m. and time to go back to Whitfield to remove some items that did not sell over the weekend at the estate sale.

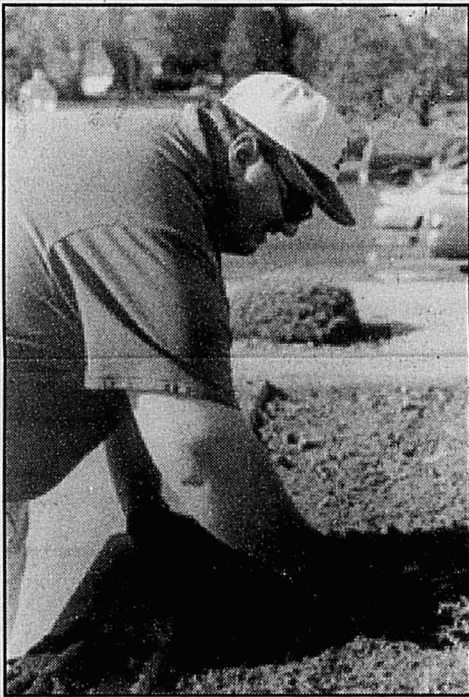
Sheer is the only full time groundskeeper, and faces many challenges in his position.

"I try to keep everybody happy at Avila. It is sometimes a difficult task because of time constraints. Over the summer, I had Bobby Bass, a senior on the football team, helping me. That is where we got the name for the

van, Bob #6. Kevin Lavalley, one of the football coaches, is helping me over this semester," Sheer said. "I get help from the maintenance department, too. I help them when they need it. We all work well together. They are a great bunch of people."

Sheer has many thoughts about the future beautification of the Avila campus.

"With an unlimited budget, I would landscape the campus with maintenance friendly shrubs and plants. I would take out some of the old bushes and put in mulch beds and rock beds around the buildings. I would put in an irrigation system to keep the grass healthy and full year round, and redo the football practice field, baseball, softball, and soccer fields. I want to get them to a point where I can maintain them," Sheer said. "When we get our own football stadium, I would love to take care of that. Sports fields just need a lot of attention. I would like to take care of striping it and making it look good. It is something that Avila hopes to have in the future. I would like to be around when that day comes."



E. Barnes

Sheer works to improve the Avila grounds.

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# Everybody stay calm

Jeremiah Miles  
Opinion Editor

Here I am, in the lavatory. I feel fatigue. At first I had a fever, but now chills are beginning. Then a painful cough and my eyes begin to swell. The room seems dry against my itchy skin. I thrust forward as I begin to vomit, only it is dry heave.

With all of the recent news coverage surrounding bio-terrorism, I expect the worst. Anthrax. Suddenly, a panic takes over. I am going to die, infect others, and lead them to their deaths. Not like this. I cannot die like this. Then the doctor asked, "Have you eaten any undercooked meat lately?"

"Undercooked meat," I respond.

"Well, you do not have anthrax and it is very unlikely that you will," the doctor continued. "The symptoms you have lead me to believe you have trichinosis. It is caused by eating undercooked meat."

This scenario is absurd, but it does happen. People can "jump the gun" whenever they become sick and expect the worse. With bio-terrorism occurring within the United States, concern has grown and people are "jumping" all right, including the government.

Example: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, vaccinated groups from small pox. They contain 140 individuals who are sent to places with suspected small pox breakouts. This disease does not even exist within nature. It was killed off in 1980, surviving only in a select few laboratories.

So should America be worried about small pox? It is a threat and could be used maliciously. We should be upset at the mistake of not eliminating it completely when our nation had the power to do so.

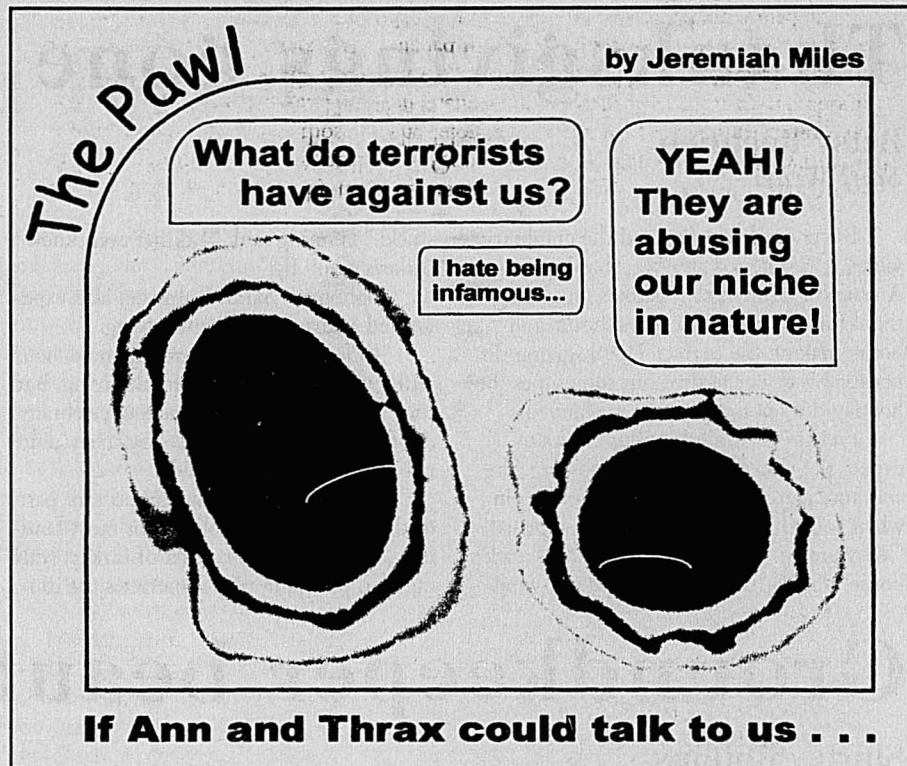
Should people be aware of it as a possible weapon for germ warfare? Sure, but who can prevent it from being used as a weapon? It seems too late for that now. This should have been discussed in 1980.

Along with the many other diseases that can be used, we cannot do anything about it. Our country should not focus on them so much. Unlike anthrax or small pox, a nuclear strike on America is not fixable.

Not only are there outbreaks with bio-terrorism but also natural epidemics that cause harm. In Hawaii, there have been around 74 cases of dengue fever, an illness consisting of headaches, fever, and rashes on the hands and feet. This disease began to show up around September, and has not made an appearance or at least its presence known since World War II.

Dengue fever is not spread through Fed Ex or the U. S. Postal Service like anthrax. It makes its way around using mosquitoes as a host, similar to the way other diseases travel, such as malaria and yellow fever.

Yet, while England is still fighting its battle against the remnants of foot-and-mouth disease, carried in livestock, some Japanese



cows are causing trouble as well. Also first seen in September, Japanese authorities confirmed the presence of mad cow disease. Beef markets are near nonexistent and travelers are weary. Both economies are hurting. Do we want this to occur in our economy?

Watching the news will not help you if you are becoming paranoid. My advice to everyone is similar to the president's: go about your lives like you normally would.

Even when counting the number of people who have died from these diseases recently,

they are slim when comparing them to others. Cancer, drunken driving, guns, and stupid people kill more people everyday than these diseases.

Winter is almost here and so is the cold and flu season. Everybody stay calm and treat your symptoms. But if you believe armageddon is upon us, then simply swat mosquitoes, avoid animals and meat, and never check your mail.

## Campus talk

Compiled by  
Jeremy Cox  
Staff Writer



*What is your favorite part of Thanksgiving?*

**Joshua Ellington - Computer Science, Math, Psychology**

"Sharing. It's a time to get your family together and catch up on with what's happening in their lives. It also gives a chance for those without family to find what they are thankful for in their life."



**Molly Fonseca - Theater**

"Getting out of school, getting a chance to go home and see family, and getting a chance to catch up on your sleep."



**Bobby Bass - Psychology**

"It's a time of togetherness, understanding, worship, and being thankful for all that you have."



**Delisa Hubbard - Education**

"Getting to go home and see family. It's also about getting to eat a lot of food."



**Jacob Blackman - Undeclared**

"Giving thanks and spending time with family. But it's overall to give thanks for what we have and being thankful for life."



**Stana Eager - Clinical Counselor**

"Gives a chance to be with those who you love most. Plus I love the fall season, so spending this time with people I care about is special."

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